

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 11, and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida et al., (U.S. Patent 5,932, 012, hereinafter "Ishida") in view of Barrey et al., (U.S. Patent 6,197, 115, hereinafter "Barrey") and Chikahisa et al. (U.S. Patent 6,562, 911, hereinafter "Chikahisa"). Claims 4-6, 12, 17-23, and 25-26 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

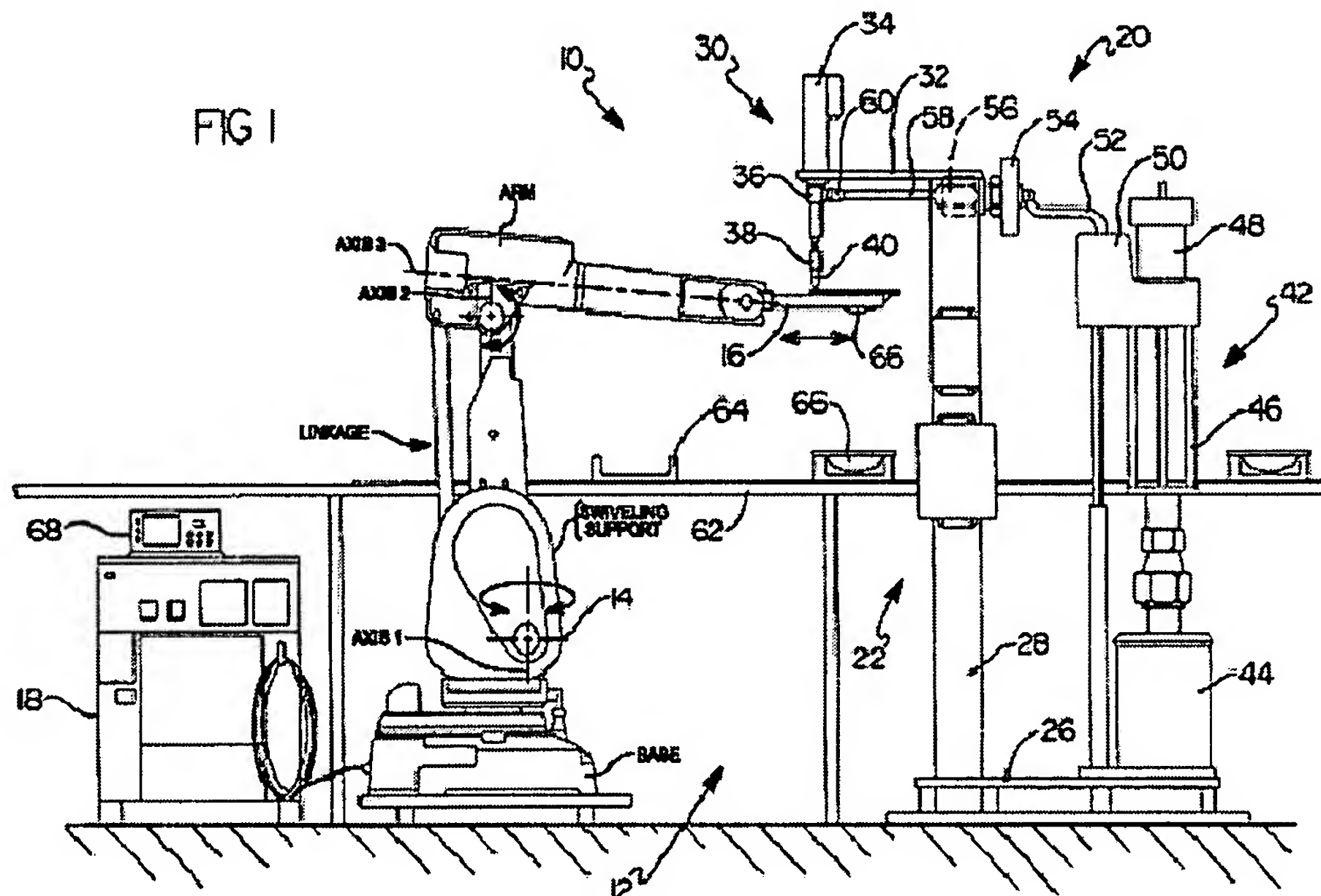
The examiner rejected claims 1-3, 11, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishida in view of Barrey and Chikahisa.

The independent claims 1, 11, and 24 recite, in generally similar language, a robotic pen comprising a machine having a stage for mounting a workpiece for rotation and orthogonal translation. The stage permits translation generally in a plane and is rotatable about an axis generally parallel to the plane.

The examiner may find an illustration of the translational plane and the rotational axis generally parallel to the translational plane in FIG. 1 of the present application. As discussed in paragraph 18 of the application, the workpiece stage includes a first table for translating the workpiece in a first linear axis X, and a second table mounted atop the first table for translating the first table and workpiece in a second linear axis Y. The second axis Y is orthogonal to the first axis X for two-plane mounting and translation of the workpiece. As set forth in paragraph 19 of the application, the machine further includes a rotary spindle suitably mounted atop the first table for mounting the workpiece for precision rotation thereof in a first rotary axis A. It is clearly evident that the rotary axis A is parallel to the translation plane X-Y.

Because Ishida does not describe a stage that permits translation generally in a plane and rotation about an axis generally parallel to such a plane, the examiner relied upon the teachings of Barrey. The rejection cannot stand if Barrey does not show a workpiece mounting stage that permits translation generally in a plane and rotation about an axis generally parallel to said plane.

Figure 1 of Barrey is reproduced below with certain annotations made by Applicants to facilitate the analysis advanced below.



Barrey, Fig. 1

Barrey describes a robotic manipulator 14 that supports a gripping tool 16. Barrey does not describe in any detail the particular motion of the components of the robotic manipulator, although these are key to understanding how the arrangement moved the gripping tool 16 (and any workpiece that would be positioned on the tool).

However, it is clear from FIG. 1 of Barrey that the robotic manipulator includes a base, a swiveling support that is rotatable about an of the base (labeled “axis 1” in the figure above, and an arm coupled via a linkage to the swiveling support. The arm may be raised or lowered about a horizontal axis (labeled “axis 2” in the annotated figure). The gripping tool is coupled to the arm. The gripping tool may be extended or retracted along a longitudinal axis (labeled “axis 3” in the figure).

However, Barrey fails to describe that the gripping tool is *rotatable about the longitudinal axis of the arm (i.e., axis 3)*. That is, the plane of translation of the gripping tool 16, following the recitations of the pending independent claims, would be the plane defined by the extension and retraction along axis 3 of the arm. No teaching is provided, however, that the tool can be rotated about that axis. Indeed, given the type of robotic device illustrated in Barrey, those skilled in the art would conclude that is it not intended to provide for rotation in this manner. Such rotation is apparently not an issue in Barrey, as the entire purpose of the arrangement is to spread an adhesive on a workpiece that is held on the (flat) gripping tool 16.

Because Barrey does not describe a workpiece mounting stage that permits translation generally in a plane and rotation about an axis generally parallel to the plane, and further because Ishida and Chikahisa do not obviate these deficiencies, the combination of teachings cannot support a *prima facie* case of obviousness of independent claims 1, 11, and 24. Thus, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

The claims depending directly or indirectly from these independent claims are also believed to be clearly patentable by virtue of their dependency from an allowable


base claim, and for the subject matter they separately recite. Their reconsideration and allowance are also requested.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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